

Iowa Council on Homelessness
Meeting Minutes
May 20, 2005

Voting Members Present:

Allan Axeen – HACAP	Doug Keast – Dept. of Workforce Development
Virginia Beane – Attorney General’s Office	Amy Knudsen – Iowa Coalition for Housing & Homeless
Anne Brown – Department of Corrections	Gordon Miller – Department of Public Safety
Christine Canganelli – Shelter House	Alice Mollett – Crossroads Women’s Shelter
Amy Correia – Iowa Coalition against Domestic Violence	Patrick Nestvedt – Catholic Charities
Tim Fitzpatrick – Department of Human Rights	Kate Ridge – John Lewis Coffee Shop
Kelli Foltz – Department of Veteran Affairs	Janell Staats – MATURA Action Corporation
Diane Foss – Dept. of Economic Development	Nicki Stajcar – Department of Elder Affairs
Jeff Gronstal – Department of Public Health	Lila P.M. Starr – Department of Human Services
Mario Hayslett – Criminal Justice Ministries	Bob Steben – Department of Veteran Affairs
Ann Hearn – Linn County Community Services	Donald Tyne – Linn County Veteran’s Affairs
Stefani Hicok – Cedar Valley Friends of the Family	Dean Wright – Drake University

Voting Members Absent:

Bill Holvoet – Community Action of SE Iowa	Loyd Ogle – Iowa Finance Authority
Ray Morley – Department of Education	Judy Songer – SIEDA Community Action

Others Present:

Krista Bowersox – HUD	Ellen Mathes – Veterans Administration
Michelle Brown – Maria House	Sherry McDonald – Maria House
Nelson DeLaVergne – Salvation Army	Kim McLaughlin – Project Concern
Elaine Dixler – Iowa Policy Project	Jim McWeany – INJL
David Eberbach – Iowa Institute for Community Alliances	Eileen Mitchell – Iowa Institute for Community Alliances
Julie Eberbach – Iowa Institute for Community Alliances	Al Motley – Social Security Administration
Natalie Fisher – Family Services League	Tim Neal - YMCA
Barry Gallagher – Davenport PATH Program	David Ortest – PATH Program
Linda Grathwohl – Iowa Legal Aid	Matt Otte – Community Mental Health PATH Program
Jeff Harcum – Siouxland Community Health Center	Nancy Peterson – Youth and Shelter Services
Jessie Hurley – HACAP	Wendy Ringgenberg – Des Moines University
Cheryl Kimball – Youth and Shelter Services	Michelle Rothfus – The Beacon of Life
Anne Kinsel – PATH Program	Carrie Slagle – Waypoint Madge Phillips Center
Linda Koester – Broadlawns Hospital/PATH	Sarah Walls – Iowa Policy Project
Greg Kramer – Iowa Workforce Development	Mike Wood – Mental Health Association
Dennis Larson – US Department of Labor/VETS	Joe Zeto – Abbey Center for Community Mental Health

Staff:

Lyle Schwery – IFA Homeless Programs Coordinator	Karen Stanton – IFA Administrative Assistant
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Call to Order & Introduction

Chairman Wright called the May 20, 2005 meeting of the Iowa Council for Homelessness to order at 10:04 a.m.

Introductions were made by those present at the host site and at the remote ICN locations.

ICN Etiquette Overview

Mr. Schwery stressed the importance of those arriving late to introduce themselves to receive credit for attending the meeting. He also requested those with cell phones or pagers to turn them off. Mr. Schwery asked members to wait for recognition from the secretary/acting chair before speaking and to introduce themselves once they have the secretary/acting chair's acknowledgement.

Approvals

May 20, 2005 Agenda

Chairman Wright introduced the agenda for the May 20, 2005 meeting.

Motion: On a motion by Gordon Miller, seconded by Anne Brown, the Council unanimously approved the May 20, 2005 Council meeting agenda.

March 18, 2005 Minutes

Chairman Wright introduced the minutes for the March 18, 2005 meeting.

Amy Correia questioned the Nominating Committee Meeting Report minutes. The motion states that all current members whose terms are expiring are to be re-elected to the council for a full term which is two years. Later in this same paragraph, the motion states the members listed will serve a second one year term. She would like to know if the listed members will be serving a one year or a two year term.

Lila Starr, Chair of the Nominating Committee, stated the correct wording would be the members listed will serve a second term, removing the words 'one year' from the third sentence of the first motion under Nominating Committee Meeting Report. This sentence will now read as: Mr. Schwery read the names of the nine individuals whose term has expired and who have been nominated to serve a second term: Al Axeen, Amy Correia, Mario Hayslett, Stephanie Hicok, Amy Knudsen, Pat Nestvedt, Kate Ridge, Janell Staats, and Dean Wright.

Motion: On a motion by Jeff Gronstal, seconded by Lila Starr, the Council unanimously approved the March 18, 2005 Council meeting minutes as corrected.

Executive Committee Report

Mr. Dean Wright, Chair of the Executive Committee, reported the committee has decided to create an Ad Hoc Committee to review the Point in Time Survey study. The following people have been appointed to this Ad Hoc Committee: Ann Hearn, Julie Eberbach, Steffani Hicok, Jenny Manders, Amy Knudsen, and Dean Wright. Mr. Wright asked for volunteers to serve on this committee with the following member volunteering: Al Axeen. Lyle Schwery will be setting up a meeting for this committee in the near future.

This committee has received a request to have the Wapello County Human Resource Association serve as the Local Homeless Coordinating Board.

Motion: On a motion by Amy Knudsen, seconded by Kate Ridge, the Council unanimously approved Wapello County Human Resource Association's request to serve as the Local Homeless Coordinating Board for Wapello County.

Nominating Committee Report

Ms. Lila Starr, Chair of the Nominating Committee, reported that the Nominating Committee has been trying to more actively recruit members for the two open positions on the Council, the business community representative and the representative for persons with prior experience of homelessness, as was requested at the last Iowa Council for Homelessness meeting. Ms. Starr reported the committee did not receive any nominations that seemed appropriate to fill either of these positions since the last meeting.

Ms. Starr reported the committee reviewed the nominations for officers with the following suggested results: Chair – Dean Wright, Vice Chair – Kate Ridge, Secretary – Doug Keast. She asked for other nominations for these positions and did not receive a response.

Motion: On a motion by Lila Starr, seconded by Gordon Miller, the Council unanimously approved Dean Wright as the Chairperson, Kate Ridge as the Vice Chairperson, and Doug Keast as the Secretary of the Iowa Council for Homelessness.

Ms. Starr asked for nominations for the two open positions on the Council.

Mike Wood reported to the Council that he had been nominated by the Siouxland Continuum of Care to represent persons with prior experience of homelessness.

Ms. Starr informed Mr. Wood that the committee reviewed his application and was hoping for a representative with a more recent experience of homelessness.

Motion: Alice Mollet, seconded by Doug Keast, made a motion to nominate Mike Wood to be eligible to be elected to the Iowa Council of Homelessness to represent persons with prior experience of homelessness.

Motion: Diane Foss, seconded by Kate Ridge, made a motion to nominate Ann Kinsel to be eligible to be elected to the Iowa Council of Homelessness to represent the business community.

Donald Tyne informed the Council that he has a person that has shown interest in joining the Council that did not show up for today's meeting.

Motion: On a motion by Jeff Gronstal, seconded by Amy Knudsen, the Council unanimously approved to cease nominations the current meeting.

Amy Knudsen wanted to make a point with the Council that this Continuum of Care is the Balance of State and it is important that our representation be from the Balance of State. Her concern with Mike Wood's nomination is that Sioux City has its own Continuum of Care and not wanting to fill the Council with persons who are not recognized in our Continuum.

Kate Ridge also believes it is important to have a representative within our Continuum of Care.

Gordon Miller reported his view that the position representing persons with homeless experience is for persons with a 'real-time' experience of homelessness. He would like to delay a vote on filling this position until the next meeting.

Motion: On a motion by Gordon Miller, seconded by Jeff Gronstal, the Council unanimously approved to table the motion to elect Mike Wood to the Council to represent persons with prior experience of homelessness to the next meeting of the Council on July 22, 2005.

Ann Kinsel reported to the Council that she would like to re-join the Council since she thoroughly enjoyed her previous experience with the Department of Public Health. She would like to continue with the plans that were started in Miami, FL.

Motion: The motion to elect Ann Kinsel to the Iowa Council on Homelessness as a representative of the business community was unanimously approved by the Council.

Ms. Starr urged council members to try harder in recruiting someone to represent 'real-time' homelessness.

Lyle Schwery reported to the Council the results of the request of a stipend for the representative of homelessness experiences for travel expenses. Mr. Schwery has submitted a request for this expense in the FY 06 budget at the rate of about \$25/half day or \$50/whole day plus mileage.

Diane Foss reported to the Council that the Balance of State Continuum of Care does not include Pottawattamie County, Polk County or Woodbury County.

Mr. Schwery informed the Council that in his opinion, the Iowa Council for Homelessness was created by the Governor to represent the State of Iowa and not the Balance of State Continuum of Care only. Membership should be from all points of the state. HUD information on the continuum of care states that the Council is to meet year round, working on homeless issues and not just to submit the Continuum of Care application.

Al Axeen requested the Executive Committee discuss this issue so the Council has a clear understanding on representation.

Continuum of Care Committee Report

Ms. Amy Knudsen, Chair of the Continuum of Care Committee, reported that the Applicant Review Team for the Continuum of Care has been meeting frequently to review the Continuum of Care applications. There were 22 renewal applications and 3 new projects awarded funds. She explained the 3-tier ranking system that was used.

Motion: On a motion by Amy Knudsen, seconded by Ann Hearn, the Council unanimously approved the 2005 Continuum of Care application project priority rankings as presented with the following people abstaining from voting: Kate Ridge, Stefani Hicok, Al Axeen, and Christine Canganelli.

Motion: On a motion by Amy Knudsen, seconded by Gordon Miller, the Council unanimously approved the renewal amounts as listed on the Project Ranking Chart and authorizes Dean Wright, as the Chair, to sign the HUD Budget Validation Forms for the Council.

Policy and Public Awareness Committee Report

Ms. Christine Canganelli, Chair of the Policy and Public Awareness Committee, reported that the Committee had discussed instituting some priority points with the homeless assistance grant project funding process. Lyle Schwery and Diane Foss will be discussing the results if priority points had been added to projects that warranted actual bed spaces in the 2005 application process.

Ms. Canganelli stated the Committee expects to have a report on the funding priority of the Homeless Assistance Grant for the Council at the July 22, 2005 meeting.

Research and Analysis Committee Report

Mr. Al Axeen, Chair of the Research and Analysis Committee, introduced Sarah Walls and Eileen Dixler from IPP on the results so far of the state-wide study update.

Ms. Dixler reported the results of the survey responses to date.

Ms. Walls reported there were some problems with getting results from agencies that work with youth that was court-ordered out of the home since these people really do not fit the definition of homeless. These agencies declined to respond. On the other hand, some agencies went above and beyond our expectations on their response.

Diane Foss reported she would like to see this problem of not being able to accurately count the court-ordered youth addressed in the future. This information is important in state-wide studies.

Lila Starr and Sarah Walls discussed the need and importance of defining several words within the homeless definition, such as institution, awaiting, foster care, youth shelter, etc.

State Program Review Committee Report

The Committee was unable to meet.

HMIS Committee Report

Dave Eberbach, with the Iowa Institute for Community Alliances, reported to the Council an update on the AHAR Report for HUD (Annual Homeless Assessment Report) is completed. Now the Institute is working with grantees to clean up the data that is reported.

Mr. Eberbach updated the Council about the Advanced Reporting Tool on HMIS. This will give the Institute the ability to pull more information from the database. Business Objects/Crystal Reports has a new product that should be released to the Institute for use in June and then to HMIS agencies in July.

Mr. Eberbach attended a meeting in Scott County regarding data sharing for consolidated client management in a specific jurisdiction.

Julie Eberbach, with the Iowa Institute for Community Alliances, informed the Council that data quality from ESOG and HSOG grant recipients is voluntarily increasing. In July, this data will be mandatory and must be sent in with each draw request to the grantor.

Ms. Eberbach, reported that in July, the PATH Providers will be on the HMIS network which will supply the Institute with valuable data that was not previously attainable.

Reports & Activities

Doug Keast reported to the Council that Workforce Development Centers around the state have more information available on the web.

Ann Kinsel informed the Council that the Iowa Medicaid System is making a change that will include individuals who do not have a link to children and were not previously eligible for aid. This may help a portion of the homeless population around the state.

Lila Starr announced the awards for the PATH (Projects for Assistance and Transition from Homelessness) funding that will begin July 1, 2005 as follows: Abbey Center for Community Mental

Health, Black Hawk Grundy Mental Health Center, Community Mental Health Center, Hillcrest Family Services, Primary Healthcare, and Vera French.

Old Business

Amy Correia – Iowa City?? asked if the various committee memberships were supposed to be discussed by the Nominating Committee.

Lila Starr reported committee membership make up will discussed at the next meeting, July 22, 2005. There was not enough time to discuss this information today.

New Business

Amy Knudsen announced to the Council that the Iowa Coalition for Housing and Homeless is hosting their 14th Annual Conference on June 13th and 14th, 2005 at the Hotel Ft. Des Moines. She reviewed the upcoming topics to be discussed at the conference.

Next Meeting Date

Mr. Wright reminded the Board of the next Council meeting date, July 22, 2005, which is not the normal day the meeting is held.

Motion: On a motion by Kate Ridge, seconded by Gordon Miller, the Council unanimously approved to adjourn the Council meeting at 11:35 am.

Dated this 22nd day of July, 2005.

Respectfully submitted:

Approved as to form:

Karen Stanton, Administrative Assistant
Iowa Finance Authority

Doug Keast, Secretary
Iowa Council on Homelessness